

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

February Ice Storm **SITUATION REPORT # 3** 1500 Hours 14 February 2007

New Information in Bold Italics

WEATHER FORECAST

Short term: The primary precipitation event ended across Virginia early this morning. Southwest and South Central Virginia will have some light precipitation through early afternoon. There should be no further accumulation. North and Northwest parts of Virginia received about ¼" of ice, but the sun should periodically shine through and temperatures will be at or above freezing. There is a strong low pressure system off the DELMARVA Peninsula which will cause strong winds to occur over Northern Virginia through the evening. The wind has increased near the coast and this afternoon into the evening could bring gusts that exceed 35 mph. There will be winds gusts of 40 mph in the Roanoke area with higher elevations seeing gusts up to 50 mph. Temperatures will drop this afternoon and wind chills will be in the single digits. Over the next few days the temperatures will be cold with on and off snow showers on the western slope areas. There will be low temperatures in the teens and single digits in the higher elevations. Thursday and Friday will not reach above freezing. The temperatures will be above freezing probably Sunday into Monday.

Long term: Another precipitation event is possible for the weekend. A warming trend is expected next week.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

State of Emergency: As of 1308 hours 13 February Governor Timothy Kaine declared a State of Emergency due to the ice storm.

EOC Activation: The Virginia Department of Emergency Management/Virginia Emergency Operations Center is at Response Operations as the first major Winter Storm of the season impacts the Commonwealth. The VEOC continues to monitor the storm and consult with NWS offices on current updates. The VEOC conducted conference calls **today, 14 February** with State Agencies, NWS offices, and localities in **5** VDEM Regions. At 0700 hours 14 February the VEOC was further augmented.

Protective Actions: **Local Emergency Declared:**
Shenandoah County – 13 February at 1500 hours
Page County – 13 February

EOC Activations:
Orange County – 14 February at 0700 hours (partial activation)
Frederick County – 14 February at 0700 hours; closed 14 February at 1000 hours
Rockbridge County – 14 February at 0100 hours
Alexandria City – 13 February at 1700 hours; closed 14 February at 1130 hours
Shenandoah County – 13 February at 1500 hours; closed 14 February at 1100 hours
Prince William County – 13 February at 1900 hours; ***closed 14 February at 1100 hours***
Loudoun County – 13 February at 0330 hours

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OPERATIONS SECTION

State Warning Point: *Monitoring the situation and consulting with NWS offices on current updates.*

Local Liaison: Regional Coordinators were deployed to the Staunton, Roanoke, and Shenandoah/Winchester areas. These liaisons will be available to advise local communities in response activities. ***Rockbridge County reporting Verizon cell phone communications are greatly impacted in the area due to one or more cell towers damaged or destroyed.***

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 4 – Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) – Two groups of 5 chainsaw crews and 2 humvees are deployed to the City of Harrisonburg and the VDOT Stephens City Construction Yard. ***Chainsaw crews were sent to Fairfield area office.***

ESF 13 – Virginia National Guard (VNG) – 70 out of 150 authorized personnel are pre-positioned. 2.5 and 5.5 ton vehicles and humvees were also pre-staged along the I-81 corridor to aid in the rescue of stranded motorists and homebound citizens. ***There are 81 guardsmen on active duty. There are response packages (personnel and vehicles) in Lexington and Winchester. One UH-60 aircraft is in Sandston.***

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 6 – American Red Cross (ARC) – American Red Cross is monitoring the weather event across the Commonwealth. The 5 chapters covering the I-81 corridor report that there are approximately 6 shelters identified with reasonable access to I-81. Staff is on standby. Access to shelters by staff and feeding partners may be an issue and assistance may be needed. ***Staunton /Rockbridge /Augusta area ARC sheltered 2 families with special needs and one individual in hotel rooms over night. Currently one family with special needs remains in a hotel.***

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

ESF 1 – Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) – Two staging areas are setup in Staunton. VA Department of Transportation has positioned 650 snow removal and sand/chemical trucks in preparation of the storm. ***Road conditions have continued to improve, however drivers should remain cautious along the I-81 and Northern Virginia corridor. As of 1400 hours, 6 secondary roads are closed.***

ESF 12 – Energy – ***As of 1330 hours Virginia Dominion Power reported 26,709 customers without power. As of 1236 hours Rappahannock Electric reports 18,525 customers without power, Northern Neck – 50 customers without power, and NOVEC – 50 customers without power. Appalachian Power reports approximately 19,000 customers without power as of 1400 hours. Restoration activities are currently underway in all areas.***

LOGISTICS SECTION

Notified state resource contractors and have identified 250+ available generators and 100-125 heater units within the state. Also, 9-13 40-person warming units were placed on standby. Additional contract chainsaw, fueling, and power installation teams were located and they can be deployed. Logistics is utilizing the previously submitted critical infrastructure reports from localities within the ice warning and winter storm watch to determine potential generator needs. Logistics is seeking information from localities on shelter status and potential distribution sites. Localities must make resource requests from

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the state through the Local Liaisons; state agencies should go through the mission assignment system. ***Currently there are 27 generators (20-400 kw) and 15 light plants available spread throughout the Roanoke-Chesapeake-Fredericksburg area. Still considering the Culpeper and Charlottesville airports as staging areas.***

PLANNING SECTION

ESF 5 - Emergency Management – Conducting State Agency and Region wide conference calls, preparing daily situation reports, and an incident action plan.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ESF 15 – Public Information – ***The VPIC opened 14 February at 0800 hours and will continue until 1800 hours. Determination for continued operations will be made later today. Continuing to update storm section of vaemergency.com*** The Joint Information Center (JIC) drafted a news release for distribution by the Governor's office on state preparations and responded to several media inquiries. ***Reports of storm related fatalities have been received but have not yet been confirmed by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.***

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Region II: ***King George County prepared to open a shelter this evening if needed.***

Region III: ***Augusta County reports a shelter was opened at Wilson Middle School in Fisherville at 1200 hours and City of Waynesboro opened a shelter at the Waynesboro High School today at 1200 hours with 0 shelterees.***

Region VI: City of Roanoke is prepared to open a shelter along the I-81 corridor.

NEIGHBORING JURISDICTIONS

Washington, DC Federal Government is on a two hour delay for 14 February. ***The DCEMA activated the Emergency Operations Center at 1800 hours on 13 February and will remain activated through Thursday afternoon. Reagan National Airport reopened at 1040 hours although many flights will still be canceled or delayed. Dulles reopened with only one runway, airport continues work to clear other 2 runways.*** Washington, DC has enacted their snow emergency plan. Maryland State Emergency Operations Center is activated at Level II.

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